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BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1923.

THOMAS D. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1923.



To the Burnham-on-Crouch Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1923, on lines prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.—Area (acres), 4517 ; Population (1921), 3406 ; Number of inhabited houses (1921), 884 (approximately) ; Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 900 ; Rateable Value, £13,987 ; Sum represented by a penny rate, £43 9s. 2d.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.—Births, (Legitimate) males 19, females 18 ; Total 37 ; (Illegitimate) males 0, females 1 ; Total 1. Birth Rate, 10·9. Deaths, 51. Death Rate, 15. Number of women dying in, or in consequence, of childbirth (from sepsis) 0 ; (from other causes) 0 ; Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—Legitimate, 6 ; Illegitimate, 0 ; Total, 6 ; Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0 ; Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0 ; Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0. The total number of births in 1922 was 52, rate 15·2. The total number of deaths in 1922 was 34, rate 9·9. Birth rate for England and Wales in 1922 was 20·06 ; in 1923, 19·7. Death rate for England and Wales in 1922 was 12·9 ; in 1923, 11·6. The population of Burnham for 1923 was 3388.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth ...	0
Deaths of infants under one year of age	6
Death rate of infants per 1,000 births	162·7
Deaths from measles, all ages	0
Deaths from whooping cough, all ages	0
Deaths from diarrhœa, under two years	0

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	2	0	0
Scarlet Fever	4	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	2
Other diseases generally notifiable ...	0	0	0
Varicella	2	0	0

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

I append a table of causes of death :

**Causes of Death in Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District, 1923.—
Civilians only.**

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.	
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	24	...	27
1 Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	...	0
2 Influenza	...	...	...	0	...	0
3 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	...	1
4 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	0	...	0
5 Cancer, malignant diseases	...	...	...	0	...	8
6 Diabetes	...	...	...	0	...	0
7 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	1	...	3
8 Heart disease	...	...	...	4	...	3
9 Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	1	...	0
10 Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	...	0
11 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2	...	0
12 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	...	0
13 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	12	...	12

Of the 51 deaths which took place during the year :

6	took place under 1 year
1	„ over 1 year and under 2
1	„ „ 2 years and under 5
1	„ „ 5 years and under 15
0	„ „ 15 years and under 25
4	„ „ 25 years and under 45
10	„ „ 45 years and under 65
28	„ „ 65 years
51	

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness and invalidity during 1923. Influenza showed itself occasionally but to no great extent. Mumps was prevalent amongst school children at the beginning of the year but the general health of the town was excellent.

Rainfall.

The following are the figures for the rainfall for the last three years, for which I am indebted to Mr. E. Dilliway, the Clerk to the Council :

	1921		1922		1923
January ...	1·53	...	2 95	...	1·20
February ...	·74	...	1·27	...	2·63
March ...	·63	...	1·39	...	1·58
April ...	1·00	...	2·40	...	·97
May ...	1·09	...	·61	...	1·44
June ...	·25	...	1·10	...	·53
July ...	·22	...	2·24	...	·94
August ...	·51	...	1·38	...	1·84
September	1·02	...	2·57	...	1·12
October ...	·35	...	1·94	...	4·33
November	1·52	...	1·14	...	2·47
December	1·11	...	1·75	...	1·96
	-----		-----		-----
	9·98		20·74		21·01
	-----		-----		-----

The following table gives the rainfall for each of the last ten years.

1914	...	...	...	...	23·99
1915	...	...	...	...	29·05
1916	...	...	...	...	26·59
1917	...	...	...	...	22·66
1918	...	...	...	...	22·78
1919	...	...	...	...	23·60
1920	...	...	...	...	23·13
1921	...	...	...	...	9·98
1922	...	...	...	...	20 74
1923	...	...	...	...	21·01

Water Supply.

The Ministry of Health granted permission to borrow a sum of between £5,000 and £6,000 for a deep boring to a depth of 700 feet. The work started on 24th September and by 31st December a depth of 340 feet had been reached in the London clay.

At the time of writing this report a plentiful supply of water has been procured which, upon analysis, has been certified as pure and wholesome.

On the completion of the above work a 20 hours per day supply for the town was tried and proved successful and a continuous supply is now in operation.

The water from the surface well is also being used, the analysis of which is certified as pure and wholesome.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, etc.

There is a voluntary Nursing Association, helped by the County, which supplies a Nurse for the town for general purposes but not for infectious cases. Cases of measles are nursed at home by the parents.

There are no **mid-wives** in the town.

The Parish Nurse attends daily at a **Maternity and Child Welfare Centre** held at her house. She acts as assistant to Miss Waterhouse, who is the Health Visitor for this district and who visits the town about once a fortnight.

Venereal cases are treated at Chelmsford when application is made.

There is no **Day Nursery**.

The town has an **Infectious Hospital**, capable of receiving 20 patients, situated in the Maldon Road, supported entirely by the Council. The Hospital has not been opened since 1912 for the reception of patients.

Ambulance Facilities.—For the removal of infectious cases there is a special brougham kept ready and provided by the Council.

An Ambulance, purchased from the Metropolitan Police, is in use for non-infectious cases and accidents.

In the event of **Small Pox** appearing in the town, the arrangements are to have the patients at once removed to a tent, to be erected on the marshes, pending their removal to a general small pox hospital. Efforts were made as reported in my last year's Annual Report to arrange with neighbouring Hospital Boards for the reception of such cases, but all our efforts were unavailing.

Laboratory Work.

The several doctors send their bacteriological specimens to the County Offices at the expense of the local authority.

The M.O.H. always keeps a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin ready at hand, which is provided by the Sanitary Authority for the use of the doctors.

No Adoptive Acts.—The only bye-laws are those relating to New Streets and Buildings.

Sanitary Administration.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer, the Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Surveyor, and an odd man when required.

A contribution is made by the County Council towards the salaries of the M.O.H. and the Sanitary Inspector.

The Council is the Local Authority under the **Milk and Cream Regulations**, and all Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops are registered and inspected. All other information under this heading will be found under the "Summary of work done through the Sanitary Inspector" on Page 10.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	18
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	...	0

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:—	
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(a) by owners	8
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(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
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(3) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	12
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Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act 1909.	—
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Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
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I append a statement of work done by the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant, *

THOMAS D. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF WORK done through the Sanitary Inspector in
the Urban Sanitary District of Burnham-on-Crouch, during the year
ending December 31st, 1923.

				Total No. for Year.
1	Complaints received	...	...	7
2	Nuisances detected without complaint	...	...	18
3	Nuisances abated	...	...	24
4	Nuisances remaining unabated	...	...	1
5	Formal notices served	...	...	8
6	Summonses taken out	...	...	2
7	Convictions obtained	...	...	2
8	Lodging Houses inspected	...	...	—
9	Slaughter Houses inspected	...	...	4 quarterly
10	Bakehouses inspected	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -yearly
11	Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	...	...	6 quarterly
12	Cowsheds inspected	...	...	5 quarterly
13	No. of samples of Milk taken for examination for cleanliness, etc.	...	...	—
14	Filthy Houses cleansed, Sec. 46, P.H. Act, 1875	...	...	—
15	Houses disinfected	...	...	6
16	Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	—
17	Houses erected	...	...	18
18	“Certificates” granted	...	...	—
19	„ deferred	...	...	—
20	Public Wells, total number in district	...	...	—
21	New Public Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	...	...	—
22	Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	—
23	Wells closed	...	...	—
24	Privies, number in district	...	...	—
25	„ number abolished during the year	...	...	2
26	Pail Closets, number in district	...	...	34
27	Water Closets, number in district without flushing cisterns	...	...	154
28	Water Closets with flushing cisterns	...	...	649
29	Privies and W.C.'s repaired ; W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	2
30	Water Cisterns cleansed, repaired or covered	...	...	—
31	Animals improperly kept, removed	...	...	—
32	Samples of Water taken for analysis	...	...	2
33	Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	...	...	—
34	Seizures of unsound Meat, etc.	...	...	—

(Signed), J. COOK,

Sanitary Inspector.